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Financial Needs to Train HTA Secretaries

History of Clyde River

The Hamlet of Clyde is situated at the West side of Patricia Bay, Latitude 7028 and Longitude 6836. The name of Clyde was assigned by Captain (later Sir) John Ross in the year 1818 while on an expedition in search of Northwest Passage. The exact origin of the name is unknown but it may possibly be named for the River Clyde in Scotland. The traditional name is "KANGIRTUGAPIK", meaning small fiord.

The original site two miles East of the present location came into existance in the summer of 1922 when Hudson's Bay Company set up a post to trade with natives in the area. The settlement moved to the present location in the late 1960's where the ground is more suitable for community expansion and the water supply is adequate.

The present population is about 500, including both natives and non-natives.

Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA)

The Association was incorporated on April 19, 1973. At present there are about 100 members (although there are about 125 eligible hunters, male sector) to the Association with seven directors and a President.

The aim of the Association is to assist its members in getting hunting, fishing, trapping and camping supplies and equipment in a most economical way. Also, to represent the general interests in matters dealing with the animals, environment and Association business in general. Also to assist the Government of the Northwest Territories (Department of Renewable Resources) in the Management of Wildlife, enhancement of appropriate Wildlife Acts and Departmental policies.

Due to lack of funds, HTA Secretary cannot handle all of the Association functions, therefore, the Directors of the HTA provide the services to the community on volunteer basis. Not only the services to the community are provided on volunteer basis by the Board of Directors of the HTA but the bi-weekly meetings have also been conducted without the honoraria paid to the directors for the past thirteen years.

Responsibilities of HTA

Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Association provides the following services to its members:

(a) Match - box Building - Used as an office by HTA and as a store to sell goods to its members;

(b) Buys and sells equipment and supplies in related to hunting, fishing, trapping and camping. Also sells Arctic Char and maktaaq when available;

(c) Search and Rescue - When ever individuals did not make it back to the settlement, a search party is organized to find them;

(d) Loan Money Program - HTA gives out loans to its members under the program to allow hunters in need of money to buy gasoline, ammo. and grub;

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(e) Community Freezer - HTA assigns lockers to individuals and keep the place clean;

(f) Fishing equipment Rentals - HTA rents out fish nets, ice jiggers and ice chisels;

(g)Radio/phone Rentals - HTA rents out four portable radios;

(h) Outpost Camp Assistance - HTA helps the two Outpost Camps (although one of them is not recognized officially as an Outpost Camp) in any way it can;

(i) Distributes polar bear tags and narwhal tags to hunters and sets the hunting conditions within the Regulations;

(j) Organizes caribou hunts once every December to provide meat for Christmas Feasts;

(k) Restricts hunters on where caribou an be skinned and BUTCHERED;

(l) Polar Bear Sport Hunts - HTA organizes two Sport Hunts a year;

(m) Cabins - HTA has a cabin at Scott Inlet and one at Sam Ford Fiord Lake. They are maintained and kept clean by the HTA,

(n) Food Wastage Prevention - Hunters are encouraged by HTA not to waste any kinds of meat, including seal meats within the community;

HTA provides the following assistance and Support to GNWT:

(a) Distributes polar bear tags to hunters and sets the bear hunting conditions within the Wildlife Regulations;

(b) Usually supports and assists Scientific Research on Wildlife;

(c) Supports or recommend rejections on Scientific Research Permits by GNWT, Federal Agencies and Private Researchers;

(d) Takes part in determining the structures of Resource Development Programs;

(e) Have taken part in a certain changes of Wildlife Regulations and Seal Protection Regulations for Fisheries and Oceans;

(f) Played side with GNWT. in reducing the polar bear quota when the bear population was said to be declining;

(g) Supports and assists the local Renewable Resource Officer when presenting parts of Wildlife Acts or Regulations, Resource Development information and Conservation materials to the public;

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Lack of Funds to Operate

For an Organization like HTA, it takes a lot of work to make the services mentioned above to run smoothly and efficiently. No matter how many meetings it takes to iron out the problems of theese services, things cannot run smoothly if the Secretary cannot do the job properly. There has to be a continuity between what is decided by the Board of Directoes of the HTA and the work of the Secretary. And this can only be achieved if the Secretary is properly trained. Most HTA Secretaries are not trained to work in offices because there is no money to attract more capable persons in communities.

Often times, GNWT (Dept. of Renewable Resource bureaucrats) feels that the theoretical postulate towards HTA's in getting support on Departmental interests because HTA's in most places are viewed as being incapable and/or apathetic towards Departmental interests. All the same, some of the bureaucrats' decisions are based on the recommendations of HTA's simply because thats the way the Minister of Renewable Resources wants it done.

In order for the Department of Renewable Resources to have more confidence in the HTA functions, HTA's must become more efficient in playing their role. Also, if the HTA's were more efficient, services they provide to their communities would greatly improve. These objectives can only be achieved if the Secretaries are properly trained and paid reasonable salaries.

Funds Required to train HTA Secretaries

To improve the services provided by HTA's to communities and to improve the working relationship between GNWT and HTA's, Secretaries must be trained properly. Any organization lacking administrative skills cannot operate efficiently and confidently nor provide services to it's public effectively. Some of the Secretaries' responsibilities are:

-taking minutes of meetings;
-receiving and sending corrrespondences;
-translating from English to Inuktitut and vice versa;
-Bookkeeping for HTA and Outpost Camps;
-Filing;
-Buying and selling goods for HTA;
-General Office Work;
-Oversees all community services under HTA;

Funds must be found to properly train Hunters and Trappers Association Secretaries - lets make HTA's existance worthwhile for all concerned.

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